

When I think of Tom, I think of words like "gentleman." I think of words like "dignity," and I think of words like "respect."

In 1984, we needed the right person at the right time to bring Queens County politics back, and history is something that is ongoing. And you never know when you are creating history or you are part of history. You just do what you have to do. But in 1984, Queens County politics was at its all-time low. So what it needed at that time, at its time of need, was a man of dignity, a man who earned respect, and a man who was honest because we did not have that reputation at that particular time. So Queens was lucky that there was a man that was willing to step up to the plate and become the county leader. And I think that is significant.

And I know he was a Member of this House, and I know that he was a city councilman and police officer, but I want to talk about Tom, that for 20 years, he was Chair of the Queens County organization, and people know that in this day and age that it is a feat that is not often obtained, because what you have got to do is you have got to keep and bring people together. And Queens County, as you have heard already, is the most diverse county in all of these United States of America. So people scratch their heads and try to figure out how did Tom Manton sustain his leadership in the most diverse county in this Nation?

Well, first of all, and you are going to hear me utilizing these words frequently, he earned the respect of people. Some people think county bosses and backrooms and they have got whips and all that kind of stuff and they try to whip you in line. Tom was always soft-spoken and always tried to give you, in a rational way, his viewpoint and how it was best for the whole to do whatever he believed. But even in that, he included people. He did not just say "I am Tom Manton, and this is what I am doing." He brought people around and included them in the process so that when a decision was made, it was made by the entirety. And he had the vision to know and to understand that the county was so diverse that you had to make sure that everybody had a seat at the table.

So, yes, he brought in the first South Asian. He brought in the first Latino. He helped create the first woman borough president and the first African American borough president in Queens County. He had the vision to make sure that you had sometimes somebody who might be a newcomer but had the ability to bring people together to make sure that they were part of it.

And what I also think was unique about Tom, even when he had to say no to you, it was never a personal situation. And I think that you could look and see where many individuals whom he may not have been with initially or had to turn down for one position, but later down the road, he found a way to make sure that that relationship was

reconciled and that person went on to do some other things. He was extremely loyal, which is another fantastic quality that you often do not see.

So I conclude my statements by just saying again, as I started, I have to thank the Creator of all for Tom Manton, because He sent us the right man at the right time to do the right thing for a borough that was desperately in need. He sent the right man at the right time to do the right thing to sit here in the United States House of Representatives. He sent the right man at the right time to have such a beautiful and dignified family as the Manton family. And our hearts and our prayers go out to the entire Manton family.

May his soul rest in peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. LOWEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE LATE CONGRESSMAN TOM MANTON

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, Tom Manton was not only a great guy, but for those of us who have been involved in politics, as I said earlier, he truly was a politician's politician. You did not have to ask a question and hear a lot of arguments that you did not understand. Tom would give you a straight answer and save you a lot of time.

But if there was a book written about great Americans or, even more importantly, great New Yorkers and great Americans, Tom Manton really would fit in that profile.

His parents came to the United States from Ireland, and Tom followed the course of not only being a United States Marine but being a dedicated police officer. After that he continued to serve for 14 years in the New York City Council and then succeeded Geraldine Ferraro in the House of Representatives.

All of these things are careers in and of themselves. But to be prepared to be the Democratic county leader of the diverse county that Queens represents really takes an exceptional person, and Tom was just that. So many people have spoken about the opportunities that he has given not only to African Americans, Jews, and gentiles, but the multiracial composition of that great county which we all in the City of New York love, to be able to reach out and to find qualified candidates and to sup-

port them so that in Albany and in the city council, that great county would have representatives that are elected really takes the wand of a magician who recognizes that he, too, came from a community, from a family that were strangers at one time to the United States and especially to New York.

I had a very special relationship with Tom when he was in the city council. I enjoyed working with him in the Congress. And even when he became a county leader, he still would reach over the rivers, over the bridges, to find out how he could put together tickets for the city council and bring about some degree of harmony so that, instead of having fights within the Democratic Party, he would find out how could we put together a package which all the boroughs could agree?

I enjoyed working with him. I would want to thank his beautiful wife, Diane, and the members of his family, for sharing this great New Yorker and this great American with us.

Our prayers and support will be with you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOX). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TOM MANTON'S LEGACY OF INCLUSIVENESS

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, so much tonight has been said about Tom Manton and so much more can be said.

What I would like to do for a couple of minutes is focus on my personal relationship with him and what role he played and the conversations we had about what he saw in the future of the county of Queens and the future of New York politics.

As we know, in our American political system, different generations bring forth different communities wanting to share in the American political dream. And as we know, politics is at the very foundation of our full American system.

From the day I came here in March of 1990, and I came in a special election, Tom Manton was one of two people that stayed very close to me, the other being Mr. RANGEL. In fact, Mr. RANGEL and Tom Manton teamed up a couple of years later to make sure that New York City received a seat on the Appropriations Committee, and it is no secret that Tom Manton and CHARLIE RANGEL accomplished that for me.

But as part of the conversations that we had throughout the years that he

was here and after that, Tommy Manton always made it clear that he understood fully what it meant to be a New Yorker and the history of New York City. He would sit down and talk to me and say, You know, my dad used to tell me about how the Irish wanted to participate in politics. And he said, I know folks will tell you about the struggles from members of the Jewish community to participate in politics and members of the Italian American community to participate in politics. And he said, It is no different. In Queens and New York City and in this country, there are Asians and Hispanics, and much earlier, African Americans who want to participate in politics, not with a desire to uproot the leadership or to destroy anything but to be part of it. And he understood from the first day I met him, he knew the first time I spoke to him, that this was healthy for our party, and it was even healthier for our society.

It has been said here that he gave sort of a rough impression at times. Very direct. Not too many words. But he was always finding a way of bringing about change. When you look at his history, the fact that he was a New York City policeman, the fact that he goes to law school, the fact that he runs for public office and wins, it is a career that tells you that there is dedication and there is concern. And I remember when he sat down with me one day and he said, Queens is seen by many folks as sort of a politically forgotten borough. We have got a lot of numbers, but all the action that is New York City is happening elsewhere. And he said, Watch Queens in the next few years as it begins to include people.

And I think that is important to use the word "include" and "inclusion" because Tommy Manton was not about meaningless tokenism. He was about honestly bringing people in.

And so now because of Tommy Manton, the Asian community, the Hispanic community, the African American community, and a county that not long ago people would bet would never see that kind of inclusiveness and that kind of change, now you see the change and you see the inclusion of people where Asian Americans had been elected in Queens County before they were elected anywhere else. Where an African American woman was elected as the borough president, chief executive of the county. That is Tommy Manton's legacy.

And depending on what your take on life is, and part of mine is that the only thing that still hurts our country is the inability for all folks to get along, that everything else we can deal with, all other issues we can deal with, but the lack of unity at times haunts us, then what better legacy to have been a leader who understood that people had to be included, and people had to be part of the process.

□ 2045

If nothing else is said about what Tom Manton accomplished, let it be

said that he understood that everybody had to be at the table and everybody had to share.

After he left here, he kept in touch with me, and after he left here we spoke often. But I will always remember him as a straight-shooter, a class act, a nice human being of few words and a coalition builder.

Mr. RANGEL and I have discussed this many times. I have only one prerequisite when supporting a political candidate: Are they a coalition builder? If they are not, including members of my own community, then I am not supporting them. That is what Tommy Manton was. That is why we will miss him, and that is why our thoughts and our prayers are with his family and with the whole Queens community.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. MANTON

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOX). Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, the members of the New York delegation have risen today with great sadness and with great pride in the life and service and leadership of our former colleague, Tom Manton.

When Mr. RANGEL announced to the body earlier this evening the sad news of Mr. Manton's passing, which, of course, has been heralded in the press because he was a big figure in New York, it brought back many memories for those of us who served with him. A big, strong Democrat, he served with great pride in this body as a way to serve the people of his district, which he loved and took great pride in. He worked in a very bipartisan way to get the job done for them. I had been a former Chair of the California Democratic Party over 20 years ago, so we shared that commitment to removing obstacles of participation in the political process through the Democratic Party organization which he led with great pride for so much of his political life.

His policy contributions for his district are legendary, and that is why he was unbeatable until he just decided he wasn't going to run again, and we all know of the legacy that he sent us in the great service of Mr. CROWLEY in the Congress.

Every person in America who cares about the environment in our country owes Mr. Manton a debt of gratitude. During seven terms in Congress, Mr. Manton was an important figure on the reauthorization of the Superfund program, which promotes the cleanup of uncontrolled and abandoned hazardous waste sites. It is very, very important pioneer work that he did there.

It might be of interest to some to know that when he came to Congress, he came to replace Geraldine Ferraro,

who was designated to be the Vice Presidential candidate. So there is a proud tradition from this district for many years; and that tradition, of course, continues with Mr. CROWLEY.

Tommy Manton was a proud Democrat and a proud Irishman, in his personal life as well as his public service. He did a great deal as the cochairman of the Congressional Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs. He helped persuade President Clinton to meet with Gerry Adams, the president of the Sinn Fein, the political arm of the Irish Republican Army. That was really a step forward in bridge building, trying to find solutions and getting the job done.

He served as a flight navigator in the Marine Corps. He was, again, a very patriotic American, who served our country in so many arenas, in local government, in the Congress of the United States, as a Marine, as a community leader, and in the Democratic Party.

On behalf of all of the Democrats, I know everyone in the Congress extends their deepest sympathy to his family, of whom I know he was very, very proud; to Diane, his wife, his widow now, and to their children, Cathy, Thomas, Jr., John and Jeanne. I hope it is a comfort to you that so many people mourn your loss and are praying for you at this sad time, and that it is a comfort to you that these New Yorkers take such pride in the life, leadership and service of Tom Manton, who himself was a proud New Yorker, a proud Irishman, a proud American.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. MANTON AND ARGUMENT FOR RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. MANTON

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I would like to add my sentiments to the words that have been spoken already. I associate myself with the remarks that have been made about Tom Manton.

Tom Manton was a political leader in an adjacent county, the Borough of Queens. In the Borough of Brooklyn we had what we call a first-rate political machine, and in view of the fact we have been discussing power-sharing and the Voting Rights Act, I remember dramatically seeing the difference between Brooklyn and Queens.

As a leader in Queens, Tom Manton believed in power-sharing. Minorities did not have to fight to get what they deserved in Queens. Harmony was not established only after a big battle was waged and the spoils were settled. In Brooklyn we had to battle for everything. We had to fight all the way.

Tom Manton was a political boss. He was head of a machine. But he gave new meaning to the word machine and being a boss. A conciliator, a mediator, a guy who made things happen as he took this diverse, rapidly growing borough, rapidly growing in terms of diverse population, he wove it altogether